

Message Text

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70

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 MC-02

AID-05 IO-10 ACDA-05 /078 W

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R 090335Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 527

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, KS

SUBJECT: NDP/DUP MERGER STALLED

REF: (A) SEOUL 2193

(B) SEOUL 4037

1. AT JUNE 5 PRESS CONFERENCE (REF B) KIM YONG-SAM, RESPONDING TO QUESTION ON STATUS NDP/DUP MERGER, STATED THAT HE HAS NO PLANS TO CALL NATIONAL CONVENTION TO CONSIDER MERGER. STATEMENT HAS BEEN INTERPRETED BY PRESS AND POLITICAL OBSERVERS AS RULING OUT MERGER FOR PRESENT, SINCE GOVERNMENT'S CENTRAL ELECTION MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HAS ANNOUNCED THAT PARTY MERGER REQUIRES NDP CONVENTION ENDORSEMENT.

2. NDP/DUP AGREEMENT WAS ORIGINALLY ANNOUNCED MARCH 31 (REF A). SINCE THEN DUP HAS INSISTED ON ACTUAL MERGER OF TWO PARTIES AS RELATIVE EQUALS, RATHER THAN SIMPLE ASSIMILATION OF DUP BY NDP. AMONG OTHER THINGS, DUP DEMANDS DISPROPORTIONATE SHARE OF LEADERSHIP POSITIONS IN NEW PARTY (THE DUP HAS ONLY 3 SEATS IN ASSEMBLY), AND DUP CONVENTION MAY 7 GAVE YANG IL-TONG POWER TO NEGOTIATE MERGER BUT NOT TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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DISSOLVE PARTY.

3. KIM YONG-SAM TOLD PRESS THAT ORIGINAL UNDERSTANDING WAS THAT MERGER WOULD TAKE PLACE BY "MOST CONVENIENT

METHOD" WHICH KIM UNDERSTOOD WOULD BE SIMPLE ABSORPTION OF DUP MEMBERS INTO NDP. NDP ASSEMBLYMEN HAVE CONSISTENTLY CONFIRMED TO US THAT UNDERSTANDING WAS FOR DUP TO BE ABSORBED.

4. NDP POLITICAL AFFAIRS CHAIRMAN YI CHUNG-CHAE TOLD EMBOFF THAT PARTY DID NOT CONSIDER DUP IMPORTANT ENOUGH TO JUSTIFY NATIONAL CONVENTION TO CONSIDER MERGER. YI ALSO NOTED THAT KIM YONG-SAM WOULD NOT WISH OPEN CONVENTION AT PRESENT TIME WHEN HE IS UNDER FIRE FROM NDP COLLEAGUES FOR POLICY OF COOPERATING WITH GOVERNMENT. YI CONCLUDED THAT PARTY MIGHT POSSIBLY CONSIDER MERGER AGAIN DURING REGULAR CONVENTION SCHEDULED FOR MAY 1976.
SNEIDER

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